

**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (GAC)**  
Ouachita Events Building, Ponce de Leon Center, 1101 Desoto Blvd.  
**Friday, February 1, 2019, 8:00 AM**

**ATTENDANCE**

**Committee Members Present**

Pamela Avila  
Michael Dollar  
Greg Jones  
Keith Keck  
David Whitlow  
Jerry Yeric

**Committee Members Absent**

Curt Malone

**Ex-Officio Members Present**

Bob Shoemaker

**POA Liaisons**

Tom Weiss, Board Chair  
Lesley Nalley, CEO

**Other POA Board Members**

Mike Medica

**Justices of the Peace**

Larry Raney, Garland County  
Keith Keck, Saline County

**School District Liaisons**

Dr. Michael Murphy, Fountain Lake  
Melissa Speers, Jessieville

**Press**

Lewis Delavan, Village Voice

**Others Present**

Robert Cunningham, Former POA Board  
Brent Jones, Benton Chamber of Commerce  
Robert Turpin HSV Property Owner

**OPENING OF MEETING**

**Call to Order:** Chair Michael Dollar called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM.

**Introductions:** New members and guests were introduced.

**Agenda:** The agenda was approved as submitted.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the January 4, 2019 meeting were approved.

## **CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

Dollar reported that there is a need for volunteers to serve on the POA Board Election Committee.

Governor Hutchinson has appointed Keith Gibson to serve on the Arkansas Highway Commission.

## **POA REPORTS**

### **Governance Report – Tom Weiss**

The County Judges of Garland and Saline Counties recently met to discuss issues facing the two counties. It was very productive.

### **Operational Report – Lesley Nalley**

- CEO Nalley reported that she and Keith Keck had attended the above meeting of the two county judges. They reported that there are 26 new members of Metro Plan and that the estimates for widening I-30 crossing in Little Rock just south of the river are huge. Nalley agreed with Keck that the meeting was very productive. She recommended a similar meeting be held each year.
- Oaklawn Racing and Gaming's new construction project will be a major economic boost for the area.
- The POA has started advertising for the marketing position.

## **SPECIAL REPORT**

Brent Jones of the Governmental Affairs Committee of the Benton Chamber of Commerce reported on their last committee meeting. He explained stated that the committee works to promote local, state, and federal legislation that supports economic development for the Benton area. The committee meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 1:15 pm at the Benton Area Chamber of Commerce building.

## **J.P. COMMENTS**

### **JP Report Garland County – Larry Raney**

- The Sheriff's Department is in need of additional personal for the county jail.

- The new Hot Springs city manager Bill Burroughs and new Garland County Judge have a good working relationship.
- The Garland County Lake Patrol is in need of new equipment.

JP Report Saline County – Keith Keck

- The Saline County Sheriff’s Department is in need of three new vehicles.
- The Saline County Jail stays at full capacity. It is ten years old and has many needs.

**GAC COMMITTEE WRITTEN REPORTS**

The following reports were submitted and circulated prior to the meeting:

- 1) Central Regional Metro Plan – Keith Keck
- 2) Tri-Lakes MPO – David Whitlow
- 3) Hot Springs and Garland County – Jerry Yeric.

These reports may be found on the GAC website.

**SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMENTS**

Fountain Lake – Dr. Michael Murphy

- Meetings have been held with ARDOT concerning easements on Highway 7 near the new proposed construction.
- Murphy is working with Donna Aylward to create groups to work on communication strategies.
- The district has hired a new football coach.

Jessieville – Melissa Spears

- The school district has started planning for summer which will involve campus paving projects.
- The agricultural shop is nearing completion.
- The district is exploring the option of applying for a grant to provide an on-campus clinic that is being offered by the State of Arkansas.
- Jessieville District is participating with the Hot Springs School District on a career program.

**OLD BUSINESS**

(none)

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Pam Avila spoke briefly about the GAC planning meeting that was held recently. She said new goals need to be set for GAC. The committee needs to find out what it is the POA needs from GAC. Avila asked members to think about these and said they will go into depth about these items at the next GAC meeting.

## **REMINDERS AND CALENDAR**

The next POA Board Meeting is Wednesday, March 20th, 9:00 AM, Ouachita Events Building, Ponce de Leon Center.

The next GAC meeting will be Friday, March 1st, 2018, at 8:00 AM, Ouachita Events Building, Ponce de Leon Center.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 am.